

REPORT

OF

THE TRUSTEES FOR

THE EDUCATION OF THE BLIND,

TO THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

DECEMBER 7, 1846.

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INDIANAPOLIS:

J. P. CHAPMAN, STATE PRINTER.

1846.

## REPORT.

INDIANAPOLIS, December 11, 1846.

HON. PARIS C. DUNNING,

*President of the Senate:*

SIR:—Please lay the accompanying report of the Trustees for the Education of the Blind of the State before the House of Representatives.

Yours truly,

JAMES M. RAY,

*Secretary of the Trustees.*

*To the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

The Trustees appointed to superintend the application of the funds raised for the education of the blind in this State, by an act passed at the last session of the General Assembly, as required, respectfully present their report.

With the view of effecting the earliest possible application of the means appropriated to an object of such merited interest as the education and training of the blind of the State, the Trustees organized at an early day after their appointment, and proceeded to make known the benevolent objects of the Legislature, by a notice published in the papers of various parts of the State, and by the extensive distribution of a circular, giving every needful information on the subject, with the regulations adopted.

By the distribution of this circular to the auditor and other gentlemen in public life, in each county of the State, it was hoped that the applications, on behalf of the blind, would be so prompt and general that our principal duty would consist in a careful selection of pupils, to the extent of the means entrusted to our care; but we were exceedingly disappointed in the result—having only secured five pupils from four counties, although receiving every applicant up to last September.



Four of these applicants were entered at the Kentucky Institution, at Louisville, and one at the Ohio Institution, at Columbus, according to the wishes of their friends and convenience of their location.

This comparative failure led us to look more closely into the difficulties in the way of effecting the humane and liberal views of the General Assembly in behalf of the blind of the State, capable of instruction; and from our experience, we were no longer surprised to find that similar failures had occurred in other States, in depending upon applications for the instruction of the blind, mainly from public advertisements, even where the Institution for their education was established within such State.

In many cases in our State we learned that the exertions of sympathizing friends to induce the parents of blind youth to commit them to the care of the Trustees, that at the expense of the State they might be so trained as to be relieved from dependence and idleness, and elevated to happiness and industry, were unavailing.

The affection of the mother of the helpless blind required stronger assurances than your Trustees could make in publication, or sympathizing friends could add, to induce them to entrust those whom they had scarcely permitted at home to move without a guiding hand, to strangers even for their free education; and we were apprehensive that further efforts of a similar character would be unsuccessful.

Under these circumstances, the Trustees were gratified with an offer by Mr. W. H. Churchman, in August, to aid in effecting the objects of our appointment. Mr. Churchman was highly recommended as recently the Principal of an Institution for the blind in Tennessee; having, after becoming blind, been trained at the Institute at Philadelphia, and having subsequently taught for nearly four years in the Ohio Institution.

As we observed it remarked in the reports of the New England Institution, and others, that blind teachers were peculiarly competent and successful in imparting instruction to the blind, we concurred in Mr. Churchman's expectations, that by personal interview with the parents and friends of the blind, he could satisfy them of the advantages derivable from their education, and give them confidence as to their being kindly treated and morally trained.

With these views, we engaged Mr. Churchman, as an Agent of the Trustees, personally to visit as many of the counties of the State as practicable, before the session of the General Assembly, ascertaining the number of the blind, and selecting from them so many as fifteen, making with the five previously received, twenty in all; which number is as large as the funds entrusted to us would sustain at the Institutions of Ohio and Kentucky, to which we are by law directed to send the applicants, until the establishment of an Institution in this State.

That our Agent was eminently successful will be seen by his report to us, which we beg leave to include herewith; and by which it



is shown that we have received in all twenty applicants as pupils of the State, of whom eleven have been sent to the Ohio Institution, and nine to that of Kentucky. We have notice also of twenty-eight others, making forty-eight persons blind, under twenty-three years of age, most of whom are susceptible of education and training, in only twenty-six counties of the State, besides some others heard of but not visited, in the same counties.

By this personal examination, the utter inefficiency of depending on the statements of the census, or of the opinions of public men in the counties in relation to the number of the blind in the State, is made manifest; and it proves that the blind are not so much in public view as those who are deprived of other senses; and that the benevolent designs of the General Assembly in their behalf must be brought to their homes, that they may be led by the hand from their obscurity and darkness to the mental light and moral elevation which, in the advanced state of the system of education of the blind, and the liberality of the people of the State, are in store for them.

We are satisfied that the number of blind, suitable to become pupils, in this State, is more than one hundred.

When it is considered that the blind, as well as the mute, cannot participate in the benefits of the school fund in the district school or county seminary, and that it is ascertained that greatly the largest portion of the blind are the children of the destitute, or persons in moderate circumstances, (the affliction being frequently the result of want of care, comforts and medical aid), and when from the noble examples of many of our sister States, it is realized that these suffering blind can be raised from their depressed, unhappy, and idle condition, to intelligence, cheerfulness, and industry, we trust we only speak the sentiments of the sympathizing and benevolent people of Indiana, when we deem it our duty, as we do, earnestly to solicit the favorable consideration of the General Assembly towards the early establishment of an Institution for the blind in our own State.

We are satisfied that a commencement could be made next fall, if it should be the wish of the Legislature, with forty pupils, (including the twenty who would be recalled from the adjoining States), in a manner combining both economy and expediency—which could be gradually enlarged to the full establishment of an Institution which would bring the blessings of education and training to every competent blind person within the State.

It is contemplated to have an exhibition of some blind pupils before the General Assembly during its present session, that their susceptibilities if improvement may be more fully discerned than they could be described.

The expenditures of the Trustees in the prosecution of the objects entrusted to them, as will be seen by the accompanying exhibit, have been six hundred and sixty-eight dollars—but it will be observed



that only fifty dollars have been paid yet towards the cost of sustaining the pupils of the State for the current year, commencing in August last. The bills for their maintenance and instruction are payable when presented by the Institutions to which they have been sent.

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE W. MEARS,  
ROYAL MAYHEW,  
JOHN H. THOMPSON,  
H. J. HARRIS,  
JAMES M. RAY,

INDIANAPOLIS, December 7, 1846.

Trustees.

### EXHIBIT

*Of the expenditures of the Trustees of the Blind for the year ending  
December 7, 1846.*

1846.

March 20,	G. A. & J. P. Chapman for advertising notice,	\$1 50
March 20,	S. V. B. Noel for circular and advertising notice,	8 87½
March 20,	Morrison & Spann for advertising notice,	1 50
March 20,	Editors of eleven papers for same, (less insertions,)	11 00
March 20,	W. Sheets & Co., for record book and folding circulars,	2 00
April 17,	B. M. Patton, Superintendent Kentucky, being the advance for three months for four pupils,	100 00
May 9,	William Chapin, Superintendent Ohio, advance for six months for one pupil,	50 00
July —	B. M. Patton, Superintendent, advance for three months for four pupils,	100 00
August 31,	William H. Churchman, towards expenses in visiting, lecturing, and procuring pupils,	50 00
October 19,	William H. Churchman for same,	100 00
October 19,	A. W. Penniman, Superintendent Ohio, on account of pupils,	50 00
Dec. 2,	William H. Churchman remainder for expenses,	91 21
Dec. 2,	William H. Churchman for services as above,	100 00
Dec. 2,	James M. Ray, Secretary, for postage paid,	1 91½
Total,		\$668 00

GEO. W. MEARS, *President.*

JAMES M. RAY, *Secretary.*



*To the Trustees of the Indiana Fund for the Education of the Blind.*

GENTLEMEN:—In compliance with a resolution of your Board, I beg leave to present the following brief report of my labors as your Agent for the visiting of certain portions of the State, in behalf of the blind.

On the first day of September, soon after my appointment, I returned to Richmond, where I obtained a suitable private conveyance on very reasonable terms, heretofore made known to you, and procured for exhibition a book printed in raised letters for the use of the blind, together with some specimens of handicraft, manufactured at the Ohio Institution for the education of the blind.

After visiting several parts of Wayne and Henry counties, I set out on the 17th of the same month for the northern part of the State, passing through the counties of Randolph, Jay, Wells, Allen, Kosciusko, Marshall, Laporte, St. Joseph, and Elkhart, returning by Kosciusko, Whitley, Allen, Huntington, Grant, Delaware, Union, Wayne, Fayette, Henry, Hancock, and Marion, to Indianapolis; thence through the counties of Johnson, Bartholomew, Jackson, Clark, Floyd, Harrison, Crawford, Orange, Lawrence, Monroe, Morgan, Putnam, Vigo, Parke, Vermillion, Fountain, and Montgomery, back to Indianapolis, arriving on the 19th of November. In the above route thirty-six county seats were visited, and a distance travelled of about fifteen hundred and twenty miles.

In making a selection of pupils from among the blind of the State, to be sent to the Institutions of Ohio and Kentucky, as beneficiaries of the Indiana Fund for the education of the blind, it was thought desirable inasmuch as the privilege could only be extended to a few individuals at present, that they should be taken from different sections of the State. In order to effect this object, it was found necessary to pass hastily over the country, spending but little time in each place; therefore, many cases of blindness must in consequence have been entirely overlooked. My only means of gaining information, was to inquire of the officers, physicians, and such other citizens of the different counties as I chanced to meet with; and though many were found in this way, it is not to be expected that near all were discovered; for while many of these individuals are acquainted with all the leading citizens of their respective counties, they are not sufficiently informed of the situation of their families to say correctly, whether or not they contain blind children, much less of those of the poorer classes, where indeed most of the blind are to be found. I was often told by public men, that they knew there were none in their section of country; and found afterwards several in their immediate neighborhood; sometimes too in the families of their personal acquaintances.

By referring to the accompanying table, it will be seen that there



have been found already forty-eight blind persons residing in the State, who are not above twenty-three years of age, besides some others, concerning whom no definite information as to age, residence, &c., has yet been obtained. Of this number, arrangements have been made for the following fifteen to enter the Institutions of Ohio and Kentucky, as beneficiaries of the Indiana Fund, in addition to the five previously sent from this State, viz:

*Ohio Institution.*

David Galbreth,	Henry county.
John Byrkit,	Henry county.
Joshua Skidmore,	Vermillion county.
William S. Nance,	Randolph county.
George Culbertson,	Wayne county.
Lawrence D. Taylor,	Marshall county.
William H. McQuery,	Hancock county.
George O. Work,	Allen county.
Clarissa Marquart,	Allen county.
Caroline Thornburgh,	Randolph county.

*Kentucky Institution.*

William Bochmer,	Clark county.
Albertus Taylor,	Fountain county.
Allen Thorne,	Lawrence county.
Mary E. Smith,	Harrison county.
Nancy C. Smith,	Harrison county.

The names of those previously entered are as follows:

*Ohio Institution.*

William Jacobs,	Adams county.
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*Kentucky Institution.*

Lorenzo T. Tucker,	Jackson county.
James A. Tucker,	Jackson county.
William E. Read,	Ohio county.
Nancy E. Emmons,	Clark county.

Among the remaining twenty-eight, there are at least twenty eligible subjects, who would undoubtedly be glad to avail themselves of an opportunity to receive a course of instruction, making in all forty cases, in the thirty-six counties visited, or an average of one and one ninth to each county; this being multiplied by ninety, the whole number of counties, gives us an estimate of one hundred within the State. But when we take into consideration the improbability that all were discovered in so partial an exploration of the counties passed through, as well as the fact that about two-thirds of those

found are males, there being no reason why they should be more liable to this affliction than females, we are compelled to believe that the number is even much greater.

In traversing so extensive a portion of the State, an opportunity has been afforded for conferring with a large number of citizens upon the subject of its benevolent Institutions, and it is exceedingly gratifying to find so noble and philanthropic a spirit pervading all classes towards them. The universal sentiment expressed was a determination to support them in the most liberal manner that the finances of the State would justify. There is probably no part of the Union, in which more sympathy is felt for the unfortunate classes for whose benefit these institutions are being reared.

The visit to this State of the Director of the Kentucky Institution with several of his pupils, and their exhibition before the Legislature in eighteen hundred and forty-four, has gone far to enlist the feelings of the public, in the cause of the blind, and it is respectfully suggested that some arrangement be made by which a similar opportunity may be given to the coming Legislature to test its merits.

Respectfully submitted,

W. H. CHURCHMAN.

Indianapolis, Nov. 23, 1846.



*Table of the Names, Ages, &c., of Blind Persons so far as yet ascertained, in the State of Indiana.*

<i>Name.</i>	<i>Age.</i>	<i>Cause of Blindness.</i>	<i>Address of Parents or Guardians.</i>
Daniel Byrkit,	22 years,	Congenital,	Jacob Byrkit, near Knightstown, Henry county.
John Byrkit,	17 years,	Congenital,	Jacob Byrkit, near Knightstown, Henry county,
Nathan Chew,	21 years,	Epilepsy,	Ephraim Chew, near Knightstown, Henry county.
John Chappel,	12 years,	Inflammation,	Joshua Chappel, New Castle, Henry county.
David Galbreth,	23 years,	Fever,	James Galbreth, near Lewisville, Henry county.
George Culbertson,	14 years,	Fever,	Mrs. (widow) Culbertson, near Milton, Wayne county.
William S. Nance,	17 years,	Accident,	Mrs. (widow) Nance, near Spartanburgh, Randolph co.
George O. Work,	10 years,	Congenital,	Henry Work, Fort Wayne, Allen county.
Abraham Marquart,	9 years,	Congenital,	—— Marquart, near Fort Wayne, Allen county.
Jonathan Marquart,	2 years,	Congenital,	—— Marquart, near Fort Wayne, Allen county.
Nelson Richhart,	14 years,	Congenital,	Benjamin Richhart, Warsaw, Kosciusko county.
John Richhart,	6 years,	Congenital,	Benjamin Richhart, Warsaw, Kosciusko county.
Lawrence D. Taylor,	9 years,	Amaurosis,	Mrs. (widow) Taylor, near Plymouth, Marshall county.
Austin Sherwood,	23 years,	Amaurosis,	Mrs. (widow) Sherwood, Mishawaka, St. Joseph county.
Wm. H. McQuerry,	12 years,	Whooping Cough,	Overseers of the Poor, near Greenfield, Hancock county.
William Flemming,	14 years,	Fever,	George Flemming, near Williamsburg, Johnson county.
William H. Young,	14 years,	Amaurosis,	John Young, near Brownstown, Jackson county.
William Bochmer,	15 years,	Inflammation,	Christian Bochmer, near Charleston, Clark county.
William Taylor,	20 years,	Congenital,	Samuel B. Welsh, Paoli, Orange county.
Allen Thorne,	16 years,	Fever,	Henry Thorne, near Bedford, Lawrence county.
—— Conder,	20 years,	Congenital,	David Conder, near Bloomington, Monroe county.
Samuel Swaim,	4 years,	Congenital,	John Swaim, near Rockville, Parke county.



Joshua Skidmore,	16 years,	Chicken Pox,
Andrew J. Hartman,	12 years,	Inflammation,
Albertus Taylor,	18 years,	Congenital,
Isaac M. Easley,	11 years,	Fever,
William Martin,	23 years,	
William E. Read,	16 years,	Congenital,
Lorenzo T. Tucker,	19 years,	Amaurosis,
James A. Tucker,	14 years,	Amaurosis,
William Jacobs,	21 years,	Accident,
Milley Ann Smith,	14 years,	Congenital,
Mary E. Smith,	12 years,	Congenital,
Nancy C. Smith,	11 years,	Congenital,
Caroline Thornburgh,	16 years,	Inflammation,
Phœbe H. Nance,	12 years,	Scarlet Fever,
Clarissa Marquart,	18 years,	Congenital,
Susan Richhart,	12 years,	Congenital,
Martha Canaday,	10 years,	Congenital,
Rachael Martin,	11 years,	Inflammation,
——— Higgins,	10 years,	Fever,
——— Morgan,	7 years,	Inflammation,
Kitty Ann Payne,	18 years,	Accident,
Martha Conway,	22 years,	Fever,
Emeline A. Bailey,	3 years,	Congenital,
Elizabeth F. Smith,	7 years,	Scrofula,
Eliza J. Smith,	3 years,	Scrofula,
Nancy E. Emmons,	8 years,	Congenital,

John Skidmore, near Clinton, Vermillion county.  
 Mrs. (widow) Hartman, near Covington, Fountain county.  
 Charles Taylor, near Newtown, Fountain county.  
 Daniel Easley, near Crawfordsville, Montgomery county.  
                     near Salem, Washington county.  
 James Read, near Coopersville, Ohio county.  
 James Tucker, near Rockford, Jackson county.  
 James Tucker, near Rockford, Jackson county.  
 Ephraim Jacobs, near Decatur, Adams county.  
 Samuel Smith, near Lanesville, Harrison county.  
 Samuel Smith, near Lanesville, Harrison county.  
 Samuel Smith, near Lanesville, Harrison county.  
 Mrs. (widow) Thornburgh, near Spartanburg, Randolph co.  
 Mrs. (widow) Nance, Spartanburg, Randolph county.  
 ——— Marquart, near Fort Wayne, Allen county.  
 Benjamin Richhart, Warsaw, Kosciusko county.  
 Joshua Canaday, Jonesborough, Grant county.  
 Joseph Martin, near Macksville, Randolph county.  
 Mrs. (widow) Higgins, near Portland, Hancock county.  
 Rowland Morgan, near Liberty, Union county.  
 Moses Payne, near Franklin, Johnson county.  
 Peter Conway, near Charlestown, Clark county.  
 Collom H. Bailey, Terre Haute, Vigo county.  
 William Smith, near Brownsburg, Hendricks county.  
 William Smith, near Brownsburg, Hendricks county.  
 Overseers of the Poor, Charlestown, Clark county.

NOTE.—Fourteen others were also heard of, whose names, ages, &c., were not ascertained.



Notes.—Candidates were also present of whose names, ages, &c. were not ascertained.

James H. Whitcomb,	2 years,	Condemned,	Orphans of the Poor, Organization, Civil society.
Edna J. Smith,	3 years,	Accused,	William Smith, post. Promising, Heretics society.
Elizabeth L. Smith,	4 years,	Accused,	William Smith, post. Promising, Heretics society.
Elizabeth A. Smith,	3 years,	Condemned,	Society H. Smith, Anna Smith, Lido society.
Elizabeth Smith,	3 years,	Accused,	Robert Smith, post. Organization, Civil society.
Anna J. Smith,	12 years,	Accused,	Robert Smith, post. Organization, Civil society.
Elizabeth,	1 years,	Indemnification,	Robert Smith, post. Organization, Civil society.
Elizabeth,	10 years,	Accused,	Mr. (John) Smith, post. Organization, Civil society.
Elizabeth,	11 years,	Indemnification,	Robert Smith, post. Organization, Civil society.
Elizabeth,	10 years,	Condemned,	Robert Smith, post. Organization, Civil society.
Elizabeth,	13 years,	Condemned,	Robert Smith, post. Organization, Civil society.
Elizabeth,	19 years,	Condemned,	Robert Smith, post. Organization, Civil society.
Elizabeth,	13 years,	Accused, Elder,	Mr. (John) Smith, post. Organization, Civil society.
Elizabeth,	10 years,	Indemnification,	Robert Smith, post. Organization, Civil society.
Elizabeth,	11 years,	Condemned,	Robert Smith, post. Organization, Civil society.
Elizabeth,	13 years,	Condemned,	Robert Smith, post. Organization, Civil society.
Elizabeth,	11 years,	Condemned,	Robert Smith, post. Organization, Civil society.
Elizabeth,	11 years,	Accused,	Robert Smith, post. Organization, Civil society.
Elizabeth,	31 years,	Accused,	Robert Smith, post. Organization, Civil society.
Elizabeth,	14 years,	Accused,	Robert Smith, post. Organization, Civil society.
Elizabeth,	13 years,	Accused,	Robert Smith, post. Organization, Civil society.
Elizabeth,	13 years,	Condemned,	Robert Smith, post. Organization, Civil society.
Elizabeth,	23 years,	Accused,	Robert Smith, post. Organization, Civil society.
Elizabeth,	13 years,	Accused,	Robert Smith, post. Organization, Civil society.
Elizabeth,	13 years,	Condemned,	Robert Smith, post. Organization, Civil society.
Elizabeth,	13 years,	Indemnification,	Robert Smith, post. Organization, Civil society.
Elizabeth,	13 years,	Condemned,	Robert Smith, post. Organization, Civil society.